- 7 are fully commissioned.
- 3 are partly commissioned.
- 1 is lying closed and winding up orders issued by the Financial Institution.
- 1 is incomplete and suit being filed by the Financial Institutions.
- 6 are at various stages of implementation.
- 1 project is on hold and is yet to start any construction work.

(c) Most of the on-going projects have been facing time and cost over-runs mainly due to the entrepreneurs' inability to raise funds from the public as envisaged in the means of financing due to sluggish capital market conditions and withdrawal of some of the lenders from the assisted projects. Other reasons for delay are inability of the promoters to raise their contribution in time, changes in scope of the project, delay in the supply of critical equipments, etc.

(d) and (e) No specific study has been undertaken by the Government on the delays in the implementation of these projects. However, Government has been reviewing the implementation of the projects from time to time at different levels and issues have been taken up with the concerned agencies, whenever necessary. Further, in order to address the problems of the on-going iron and steel projects as well as the newly commissioned/existing steel plants, Government have constituted a Project Co-ordination Group (PCG) under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Steel and Members comprising of Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Executives of the Financial Institutions (IDBI, IFCI and ICICI) and State Bank of India. The first meeting of the PCG took place on 13th March, 2000, wherein, the company representatives were given an opportunity to present their problems before the Group.

Export Production Target of SAIL

3173 . SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL propose to export its products during the next few years;

(b) if so, the targets fixed and likely to be achieved;

(c) how the SAIL will achieve the export targets when it is suffering losses;

(d) whether to meet the export target, SAIL propose to take help of any financial institution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. SAIL's corporate strategy envisages exports of Iron and Steel materials on consistent basis in the next few years.

(b) SAIL have fixed a target of 7,00,000 MT for export of Iron and Steel during 2000-2001. This target is likely to be achieved.

(c) SAIL has been exporting its products at prices with positive contribution in line with international practice. Exports on sustained basis help in higher utilisation of the production capacities of the plants, stabilisation of prices in the domestic market, inventory control and export led growth in sales.

(d) and (e) Presently, SAIL does not propose to take help from any financial institution to meet the export targets. However, SAIL has been regularly availing pre-shipment export packing credit (EPC) which is offered by financial institutions.

Selling off Salem Steel Plant

3174 . SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Salem Steel Plant is proposed to be sell off;

(b) if so, its impact on other Steel Plants; and

(c) the fate of workers of the Salem Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that has been approved by the Government includes, inter alia, formation of Joint Venture for Salem Steel Plant (SSP), while protecting the jobs of existing employees. Such joint venture would be beneficial to SAIL.